

~~TOP SECRET~~
Security Information

ALBANIA

December 1952

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

a. Exploratory talks of a very general nature, continuing those which took place in November, were held with officials of the Yugoslav Government in Belgrade on the subject of Albania. To date these conversations have not progressed to the point of discussing possible joint operations against Albania, but they are tending in that direction.

b. Yugoslav approaches to US oriented and other Albanian emigre leaders in Italy continued through December. Overtures to all leading political parties have now been made. The emigre leaders appear to be increasingly interested in Yugoslav proposals and several have been quoted as favoring some type of cooperation.

2. SYNOPSIS

The Albanian project, SIFIREND, is directed from the [redacted] by the Project Field Chief. There were no changes worthy of reporting during December.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

Current objectives at which our RI and PP activities were aimed during the period continued to be the development of existing underground assets, the expansion of our present limited working relationship with the Yugoslave vis-a-vis Albania, the harassment of the regime by all forms and media of PW, and the improved effectiveness of the political front (National Committee for Free Albania).

a. Paramilitary

(1) On 6 December we received from King Zog two control questions to be used in determining whether our team in Albania (Apple) is under control. Responses to the questions on 13 December appeared to indicate that the team is safe and it will be handled on that basis. W/T contact with the team was re-established on 27 December. Instructions were given the team regarding the receipt of a new W/T operator, supplies and medicines. The team was requested to confirm dates and the drop zone. (SIFIREND)

(2) [redacted], SE/CPT, spent 14-16 December in Alexandria, where he discussed with King Zog the status of the Apple Team and plans for the recruitment and movement of the members of four additional teams for spring infiltration. (SIFIREND)

b. Political-Psychological

(1) During December a regular broadcast schedule was maintained by the covert radio located near Athens.

(2) The KOMI semi-monthly newspaper Shqiperia was printed in Rome on schedule. Fifty-thousand copies of the miniature edition of Shqiperia were printed and sent to Athens for use in air drops over Albania.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3820
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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Chief, SE-1